

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment claims 2-4 have been cancelled. Claims 13-22 have been added.

The indication that claims 2-4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 13 is claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 is claim 3 which now depends from claim 13. Claim 15 is claim 4 which now depends from claim 14. Thus, claims 13-15 should be allowed.

Claim 16 is claim 5 which now depends from claim 13. Claim 17 is claim 6 which now depends from claim 13. Claim 18 is claim 7 which now depends from claim 13. Claims 16-18 constitute further limitations to an allowed claim. Thus, claims 16-18 should also be allowed.

Claim 19 is claim 9 rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 19 should be allowed.

Claim 20 recites a method of producing a skeleton for a steering wheel from sheet metal including the steps of providing a flat metal blank, cutting the flat metal blank to form a ring-shaped section, forming a skeleton for a steering wheel rim by deforming the ring-shaped section in such a way that it acquires a hollow profile which in cross-section encloses an angle of more than 180°. The forming step comprises at least partially deforming the ring-shaped section

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by moving the ring-shaped section between two rotatable rollers.

Claim 20 defines over the patents to Eikoff (US 6,279,230) and Sessions (US 1,080,080). Neither the patent to Eikoff nor the patent to Sessions discloses a method of producing a steering wheel including forming a skeleton for a steering wheel rim with the steps recited in claim 20. Thus claim 20 should be allowed.

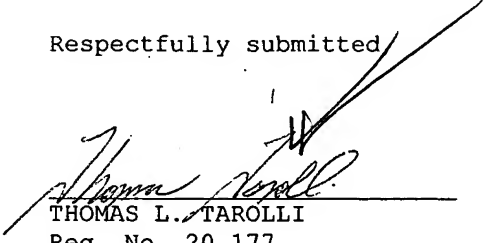
Claims 21 and 22 recite further limitations of the flat metal blank in the providing step of claim 20. Claims 21 and 22 define over the prior art. None of the prior art disclose or suggest a metal blank including a plurality of holes in the ring section and a central hub section and a plurality of spokes sections interconnecting the hub and ring-shaped section and the plurality of spoke sections being spaced apart from each other by empty spaces. Thus, claims 21 and 22 should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

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Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account
No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted



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